

## [R. H. Johnston]

[??] S260- DUP

### FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Ruby E. Wilson ADDRESS R # 1 W. Front

DATE Nov. 21-22 SUBJECT N. Platte Negroes

1. Home and address of informant R. [?]. Johnston N. Platte of Gilbert Barber shop
2. Date and time of interview Nov. 21. Mon.
3. Place of interview Barber Shop
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompany you
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. [??]

### FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Ruby E. Wilson ADDRESS R # 1WFront N. Platte Nebr.

DATE Nov 21-22/Rewrite Jan 21 SUBJECT N. Platte Negroes

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT R. H. Johnston N. Platte Nebr. [?] Gilbert Barber Shop

1. Ancestry Negro

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2. Place and date of birth Kansas 1869

3. Family

4. Places lived in, with dates Kansas 1869-1883 came to Omaha, 1931 came to N. Platte Nebr.

5. Education, with dates Educated in Kansas and Omaha

6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates Occupied as janitor and boot black in small barber shop.

7. Special skills and interests Seems sincerely interested in his peoples well fare and future. Offers a simple philosophy concerning moral uplift and general welfare.

8. Community and religious activities Seems to have a broad and sound understanding of this towns colored people.

9. Description of informant Is black, bald head fringed with grey. Very self important in talk and carriage. [?] and impressive [?] mistaken vocabulary.

10. Other points gained in interview. Upon the occasion of Gov. Landons presidential campaign visit to our city, this negro waited upon the speakers very elaboratly with a pitcher of ice water. Because of a deformity in chest & hips the man walks like a pouter-pigeon. This and his air of self-esteem made him more important appearing than the visiting governors and speakers, or even the brass bands. The negro realy stole the show. Nevertheless he strikes me as a rather intelligent and well seasoned negro. His stepson is habitually criminal.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)-

NAME OF WORKER Ruby E. Wilson ADDRESS R # L W Front

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DATE Nov. 21-22 SUBJECT N. Platte Negroes

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT R. H. Johnston

Mr. Johnston informed me there were 29 colored men and women and children living in our town.

As far as he knows the earliest negro family living here was the Hill family who came in the '80's he believes. Mr. Hill was employed here as janitor in the bank and was a respected and dependable character. He worked here many years and died and is buried here. His widow is still living here and also a step daughter whom I shall contact as soon as possible.

Mr. Johnston explained that the segregation problem existed here in the types and conditions of rental dwellings available here to the colored people. He said few homes can be gotten by colored people and those if being rented by a white person would rent for several dollars less and there never additional improvements such as screens and window glass [?]. The houses do not pretend to modernisms nor would their owners ever renovate or repair them before renting them to negroes.

He tells me of two colored mothers of young daughters how are living with Mexicans or strange men. He also told me of a young colored couple whom I have ascertained to [?] of most respectable reputation. Mr. and Mrs. [Hopkins?]. Mr. [Hopkins?] has worked in this town 10 or 12 years and will also be contacted as soon as possible.

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This Sabbath past, Mr. Johnston tells me, saw the organization of a negro [?] by a Rev. Brown, a graduate of National Theological College of Nashville, Tenn. He reported that 19 city negroes are now affiliated in the religious movement which is "Endeavouring with the

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help of the Christian people to raise the moral standard of the negro population, and all we ask is work for ourselves so that we might help ourselves.”

Mr. Johnston declared the new minister to be working for no church [?] saying he too wanted work and would support himself by working as he hopes to arrange for his people to do.

A hall built by the Baptist minister here several years ago and since aquired by the ministerial association for use of the Salvation Army and North Side Recreation has been made available to the negro mission through the efforts of Rev. Houston of the Christian church here and Mrs. Van Cleave; also literature and song books.

Mr. Johnston personally, is the stepfather of our town ‘ s most notorious young negro, a boy who appears to be around 14 and who is closer to 30. “Snowball” is well known to the police and better known to the state institutions. he is popular with a certain element of boys because he is a clown and because he is so versatile and well experienced. he is now in trouble of stealing bonds. He has stolen arm loads of pink underwear, coal, chickens and in short is a dangerous and habitual criminal.